

broadview anthology of american literature

Broadview Anthology of American Literature: A Deep Dive into America's Literary Heritage

broadview anthology of american literature stands as one of the most comprehensive and thoughtfully curated collections of American literary works available today. For students, educators, and literature enthusiasts alike, this anthology offers an expansive journey through the rich tapestry of American writing, from early colonial texts to contemporary voices. What sets the Broadview Anthology apart is its commitment not only to showcasing canonical authors but also to including diverse perspectives and contextual materials that deepen readers' understanding of the cultural and historical moments behind each work.

What Is the Broadview Anthology of American Literature?

At its core, the Broadview Anthology of American Literature is a multi-volume series designed to present American literature in a way that is accessible, engaging, and academically rigorous. Published by Broadview Press, a company known for its scholarly editions, this anthology combines literary texts with supplementary content such as historical documents, author biographies, and critical essays.

Unlike many traditional anthologies that focus mainly on well-known authors and famous works, the Broadview Anthology embraces a broader scope. It aims to highlight marginalized voices — including Indigenous writers, African American authors, women, and immigrant storytellers — whose works have historically been underrepresented in literary collections. This inclusive approach helps paint a more complete and nuanced picture of American literature's evolution.

Key Features of the Broadview Anthology of American Literature

Comprehensive Coverage Across Periods

One of the most notable strengths of the Broadview Anthology is its division into volumes categorized by literary periods. Typically, these include early American literature, the 19th century, and modern and contemporary works. This structure allows readers to trace the development of themes, styles, and cultural shifts over time. Whether you're interested in the Puritan sermons of the 17th century or the experimental poetry of the 20th century, the anthology provides original texts alongside contextual resources that illuminate each era.

Contextual Introductions and Annotations

Reading classic literature can sometimes feel daunting, especially when the language or historical references are unfamiliar. The Broadview Anthology addresses this by offering well-researched introductions for each author and work, setting the stage for better comprehension. Detailed footnotes and annotations clarify archaic terms, allusions, and complex ideas, making the reading experience smoother and more meaningful.

Diverse and Inclusive Selection

In recent years, there has been growing awareness of the need to diversify literary curricula. The Broadview Anthology of American Literature responds to this by incorporating a wide range of voices, including Native American oral literature, African American slave narratives, immigrant stories, and feminist writings. This diversity enriches readers' appreciation of America's literary fabric and encourages critical thinking about identity, power, and culture.

Why Choose the Broadview Anthology for American Literature Studies?

Ideal for Students and Educators

If you're a student venturing into American literature for the first time, the Broadview Anthology can be an invaluable resource. Its clear organization and supporting materials help break down dense texts and complex historical contexts. For educators, the anthology's variety allows for flexible syllabus design, enabling the inclusion of both traditional and lesser-known authors without needing multiple supplementary texts.

Enhances Critical Thinking and Cultural Awareness

Because the Broadview Anthology includes not only literary works but also related historical documents and criticism, it encourages readers to think critically about the societal forces shaping literature. For example, pairing Frederick Douglass's narratives with abolitionist pamphlets or juxtaposing Emily Dickinson's poetry with 19th-century gender norms can spark insightful discussions in classroom or book club settings.

High-Quality Academic Standards

Broadview Press is recognized for its scholarly rigor, and this anthology is no exception. The editorial teams typically consist of experts in American literature who ensure textual accuracy and provide well-documented research. This makes the Broadview Anthology a trusted source for academic work.

and literary research.

Exploring the Volumes of the Broadview Anthology

Volume 1: The Beginnings to 1820

This volume covers early American writings, including Indigenous oral traditions, Puritan sermons, early colonial narratives, and Revolutionary War-era texts. It provides insight into the foundational moments of American identity and literature. Readers can explore the tension between colonization and native cultures, religious devotion, and emerging political philosophies.

Volume 2: 1820-1865

Focusing on the antebellum period, this volume includes major Romantic and transcendentalist writers like Emerson and Thoreau, as well as African American voices such as Harriet Jacobs and Frederick Douglass. It captures the ferment of social reform movements including abolitionism and women's rights, reflecting the complex cultural dynamics leading up to the Civil War.

Volume 3: 1865 to the Present

The third volume spans post-Civil War Reconstruction, modernism, and contemporary literature. It features iconic authors like Mark Twain and Langston Hughes alongside immigrant narratives and experimental poetry. This section highlights the evolving American experience amid industrialization, urbanization, and globalization.

Tips for Making the Most of the Broadview Anthology

Engage with the Supplementary Materials

Don't skip the introductions, footnotes, and historical documents included in the anthology. These elements are carefully chosen to enhance understanding and provide deeper context. Taking notes on these materials can improve your grasp of the themes and historical backdrop of each work.

Use It as a Springboard for Further Research

The Broadview Anthology often references additional resources and critical essays. Use these as starting points to explore topics or authors that interest you more deeply. Whether for class

assignments or personal enrichment, this approach can expand your literary knowledge significantly.

Group Discussions and Study Sessions

Because the anthology presents a wide range of voices and perspectives, it is perfect for group discussions. Sharing insights and hearing diverse viewpoints can reveal new interpretations and make the material come alive in ways solitary reading might not.

The Impact of the Broadview Anthology on American Literary Studies

In academic circles, the Broadview Anthology of American Literature has contributed to reshaping how American literature is taught and studied. Its inclusive approach challenges traditional literary canons and encourages a more critical examination of whose stories get told. By integrating marginalized voices alongside established classics, the anthology fosters a more equitable and comprehensive literary landscape.

Moreover, its accessibility—both in terms of language and supplementary content—has democratized the study of American literature. Students from various backgrounds can engage with the texts without feeling alienated by jargon or lack of context. This, in turn, promotes a richer, more diverse literary conversation.

Whether you are a literature major, a casual reader, or a teacher designing a syllabus, the Broadview Anthology of American Literature offers a thoughtfully crafted gateway into the vast and varied world of American letters. Its dedication to depth, diversity, and scholarly excellence ensures that it remains a cornerstone resource in understanding the literary heritage of the United States.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Broadview Anthology of American Literature?

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature is a comprehensive collection of American literary works, including poetry, fiction, essays, and plays, designed for academic study and featuring extensive contextual materials.

How does the Broadview Anthology of American Literature differ from other anthologies?

The Broadview Anthology is known for its inclusive approach, featuring a diverse range of authors and voices, extensive historical and cultural annotations, and supplementary materials such as letters and historical documents.

Which editions of the Broadview Anthology of American Literature are currently available?

As of 2024, the Broadview Anthology of American Literature is available in multiple editions, including the 5th edition and specialized volumes divided by historical periods and genres.

Can the Broadview Anthology of American Literature be used for online or digital learning?

Yes, Broadview offers digital versions and eBooks of the anthology, making it accessible for online learning and compatible with various educational platforms.

Who are the editors of the Broadview Anthology of American Literature?

The anthology is edited by a team of respected scholars in American literature, including Joseph Black, Leonard Cassuto, and others, who contribute to its scholarly rigor and comprehensive coverage.

What supplementary materials are included in the Broadview Anthology of American Literature?

The anthology includes extensive footnotes, historical and cultural contextual essays, author biographies, and primary documents, which help readers understand the literary works within their broader historical and social contexts.

Additional Resources

Broadview Anthology of American Literature: A Comprehensive Review and Analysis

broadview anthology of american literature stands as one of the most respected and widely used collections in the field of American literary studies. Known for its inclusive approach and editorial rigor, this anthology has become a staple resource for educators, students, and scholars seeking a broad yet nuanced exploration of American literature's evolution. By carefully curating texts that span diverse voices, historical periods, and genres, the Broadview Anthology offers a distinctive alternative to traditional collections, blending canonical works with marginalized and emerging perspectives.

An In-Depth Analysis of the Broadview Anthology of American Literature

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature is not simply a compilation of texts; it is a meticulously crafted academic tool designed to illuminate the literary landscape of the United States from its earliest colonial writings to contemporary works. Published by Broadview Press, a company recognized for its commitment to high-quality scholarly editions, the anthology aims to balance

accessibility with depth, making it suitable for both undergraduate classrooms and advanced research.

One of the defining features of this anthology is its editorial philosophy. Unlike some traditional anthologies that focus predominantly on established canonical authors, the Broadview Anthology consciously incorporates a wider array of voices. This includes Indigenous writers, African American authors, women, and other historically underrepresented groups. Such inclusivity reflects ongoing scholarly efforts to rethink American literary history in a way that acknowledges cultural plurality and complexity.

Comprehensive Coverage Across Literary Periods

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature organizes its volumes chronologically, providing readers with a clear sense of literary development over time. Typically divided into multiple volumes—such as Early American Literature, Nineteenth-Century Literature, and Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature—the collection allows for focused study within specific eras while maintaining a coherent overarching narrative.

Within these volumes, readers encounter seminal works from figures like Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, and Walt Whitman alongside texts by writers such as Zitkala-Ša, Langston Hughes, and Leslie Marmon Silko. This juxtaposition fosters a richer understanding of how American literature reflects and shapes social, political, and cultural realities across centuries.

Editorial Features and Supplementary Materials

Beyond the primary texts, the Broadview Anthology is lauded for its extensive editorial apparatus. Each selection is accompanied by detailed introductions, annotations, and contextual essays that elucidate historical background, thematic relevance, and critical interpretations. These materials are particularly valuable for students and educators, as they provide guidance in navigating complex texts and situating them within broader literary and cultural frameworks.

The anthology's inclusion of primary historical documents, such as letters, manifestos, and speeches, further enhances its educational value. Such documents allow readers to engage with the cultural and political milieus that influenced literary production, fostering an interdisciplinary approach that connects literature with history, philosophy, and social movements.

Comparative Advantages Within the Market

When compared to other major American literature anthologies—such as Norton's Anthology of American Literature or McGraw-Hill's American Literature collections—the Broadview Anthology distinguishes itself through its editorial transparency and commitment to diversity. While Norton remains the market leader and is praised for its comprehensive scope, Broadview appeals to instructors and students seeking a more critical and inclusive selection.

Additionally, Broadview's attention to textual accuracy and scholarly rigor stands out. The editions

often feature unabridged or carefully restored texts, which appeal to readers interested in authentic historical versions rather than heavily adapted or simplified renditions.

Key Benefits and Considerations for Users

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature offers numerous advantages but also presents certain considerations depending on the needs of its users.

- **Inclusivity:** Its commitment to featuring diverse authors expands the literary canon and enriches classroom discussions about identity, power, and representation.
- **Educational Support:** The comprehensive notes and contextual essays support deeper engagement with texts, benefiting both novice and advanced readers.
- **Textual Fidelity:** The anthology's critical editions provide reliable texts for scholarly citation and analysis.
- **Price and Accessibility:** As a multi-volume set with extensive editorial content, the anthology can be more expensive and less portable than some competitors, which may affect adoption in certain educational settings.
- **Volume and Length:** The depth and breadth of the collection might overwhelm students new to American literature, requiring careful instructor guidance.

Integration in Academic Curricula

Educators who adopt the Broadview Anthology often praise its adaptability to various teaching approaches. Its modular structure allows instructors to tailor reading lists according to thematic focuses, such as race and ethnicity, gender studies, or historical contexts. Furthermore, the anthology's blend of poetry, prose, drama, and non-fiction offers multidisciplinary engagement, supporting courses in literature, history, and cultural studies.

Some institutions use Broadview as a supplementary text alongside more traditional anthologies to provide students with multiple perspectives, demonstrating the evolving nature of the American literary canon and encouraging critical thinking about what constitutes "American literature."

Digital and Supplemental Resources

In response to the increasing demand for digital learning tools, Broadview Press has developed online platforms that complement the anthology. These resources include searchable text databases, study guides, and interactive media that enrich the learning experience and facilitate remote or hybrid instruction.

The availability of e-text versions allows for greater accessibility and convenience, especially in environments where physical textbooks may be impractical. However, some users note that the digital formats may lack certain features present in print editions, such as the tactile experience and ease of annotation.

Final Reflections on the Broadview Anthology of American Literature

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature represents a significant contribution to literary studies by championing inclusivity, scholarly precision, and pedagogical support. Its editorial choices challenge conventional canons and encourage readers to reconsider the multifaceted nature of American literary heritage.

While its comprehensive scope and academic depth may demand a higher investment of time and resources, the anthology's benefits in fostering critical engagement and broadening literary horizons make it a valuable asset in educational contexts. For those seeking an anthology that not only presents American literature but also interrogates its cultural and historical foundations, the Broadview Anthology remains an authoritative and thought-provoking choice.

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- Extensive online component offers well over a thousand pages of additional readings and other resources

broadview anthology of american literature: The Broadview Anthology of American Literature Volumes A & B: Beginnings to Reconstruction Derrick R. Spires, Christina Roberts, Joseph Rezek, Justine S. Murison, Laura L. Mielke, Christopher Looby, Rodrigo Lazo, Alisha Knight, Hsuan L. Hsu, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Michael Everton, Christine Bold, 2022-04-21 This product contains both The Broadview Anthology of American Literature Volume A: Beginnings to 1820 and The Broadview Anthology of American Literature Volume B: 1820 to Reconstruction as a single purchase. Covering American literature from its pre-contact Indigenous beginnings through the Reconstruction period, the first two volumes of The Broadview Anthology of American Literature represent a substantial reconceiving of the canon of early American literature. Guided by the latest scholarship in American literary studies, and deeply committed to inclusiveness, social responsibility, and rigorous contextualization, the anthology balances representation of widely agreed-upon major works with an emphasis on American literature's diversity, variety, breadth, and connections with the rest of the Americas. Highlights of Volumes A & B: Beginnings to Reconstruction • Complete texts of Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative, *The Coquette*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*; and Benito Cereno • In-depth, Contexts sections on such topics as "Slavery and Resistance," "Print Culture and Popular Literature," "Expansion, Native American Expulsion, and Manifest Destiny," and "Gender and Sexuality" • Broader and more extensive coverage of Indigenous oral and visual literature and African American oral literature than in competing anthologies • Full author sections in the anthology are devoted to authors such as Anne Hutchinson, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Briton Hammon, Jane Johnston Schoolcraft, José Maria Heredia, Black Hawk, and many others

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broadview anthology of american literature: The Broadview Anthology of American Literature Volume B: 1820 to Reconstruction Derrick R. Spires, Christina Roberts, Joseph Rezek, Justine S. Murison, Laura L. Mielke, Christopher Looby, Rodrigo Lazo, Alisha Knight, Hsuan L. Hsu, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Michael Everton, Christine Bold, 2022-04-13 Covering American literature from its pre-contact Indigenous beginnings through the Reconstruction period, the first two volumes of The Broadview Anthology of American Literature represent a substantial reconceiving of the canon of early American literature. Guided by the latest scholarship in American literary studies, and deeply committed to inclusiveness, social responsibility, and rigorous contextualization, the anthology balances representation of widely agreed-upon major works with an emphasis on American literature's diversity, variety, breadth, and connections with the rest of the Americas. Highlights of Volume B: 1820 to Reconstruction • Complete texts of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*; and Benito Cereno • In-depth, Contexts sections on such

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broadview anthology of american literature: Digital Literary Redlining Amy E. Earhart, 2025-06-24 Though canon concerns seem to be a relic of 1990s academia, we are, once again, at a historical moment when there is resistance to teaching texts by writers of color and texts that deal with race, ethnicity and gender. At the same time, algorithmic bias scholars are locating systemic bias encoded into systems from policing software to housing software. Bringing these divergent areas together, Amy E. Earhart examines how technological and institutional infrastructures construct and deconstruct race, ethnicity and gender identities. Focusing on two central infrastructures, the database, a commonly used technological infrastructure in the digital humanities, and the anthology, a scholarly and pedagogical infrastructure, Earhart considers how such seemingly naturalized infrastructures impact the representation and modeling of identity. The book draws upon the building and use of DALA, a collection of almost 100 years of generalist American and African American literature anthologies, constructed to investigate questions of identity and representation in literary anthologies and, by extension, the larger literary canon. The resulting examination, and its rigorous discussion of how identities are created and recreated within Black literary histories, has important implications for contemporary cultural and political debates about canon formation, literary scholarship, and the bias embedded in technological infrastructures.

broadview anthology of american literature: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Victorian Era - Second Edition ,

broadview anthology of american literature: Moby-Dick; or, the Whale: Selections Herman Melville, 2023-06-02 When Melville completed Moby-Dick, he wrote to Nathaniel Hawthorne that "I have written a wicked book, and feel spotless as a lamb." While it took the world some time to appreciate the magnitude of Melville's achievement, Moby-Dick is now widely considered one of the greatest works of American literature. It is, however, long, and students in semester-long courses will often not have a chance to read the novel in its entirety. The Broadview Moby-Dick: A Selection offers a robust sampling of chapters, chosen to give students a thorough initiation into the novel's plot, as well as into the full range of its themes and stylistic experimentation. This edition also includes substantial, clear, and helpful annotations to help students successfully navigate Melville's language and range of references. This volume is one of a

number of editions that have been drawn from the pages of the acclaimed Broadview Anthology of American Literature. The series is designed to make selections from the anthology available in a format convenient for use in a wide variety of contexts; each edition features an introduction and explanatory footnotes, and is designed to meet the needs of today's students.

broadview anthology of american literature: A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison James E. Seaver, 2022-07-22 A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison offers a remarkable perspective on eighteenth-century America. A white settler by birth, Mary Jemison was taken captive as a child in 1758 and adopted by two Seneca sisters. Refusing offers to return to settler society, she chose to spend the remainder of her life as a Seneca wife, mother, and respected community member. In 1823, the now-elderly Jemison shared her life story with white American writer James Seaver, who published it as a captivity narrative the following year. Conscious of the impacts of Seaver's editorial hand, this edition foregrounds Jemison's voice while also recentring Indigenous perspectives through an informative introduction and an illuminating selection of contextual materials.

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broadview anthology of american literature: Frederick Douglass: Selected Writings and Speeches Frederick Douglass, 2023-04-27 Universally recognized today as one of the most important and influential Americans of the nineteenth century, Frederick Douglass rose to prominence in the national abolitionist movement before and during the Civil War by virtue of the vividness and power with which, drawing on his personal experiences of enslavement and freedom, he spoke and wrote against American slavery—and he continued to propound his vision of an America that would afford freedom, equality, and opportunity to all long after slavery was formally abolished. This edition offers a selection of Douglass's most significant writing and oratory from throughout his long career, including the complete texts of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, which has become a classic example of the slave narrative genre, and The Heroic Slave, Douglass's only published work of fiction, together with excerpts from Douglass's other autobiographical writings and key speeches he gave both before and after the Civil War. The edition also provides clear and thorough annotations for the assistance of the student reader and a range of contextual materials, including responses to Douglass's Narrative and photographs of Douglass. As an introduction to Douglass's life and work that balances breadth and concision, this edition is well suited for a variety of undergraduate courses in American history and literary studies.

broadview anthology of american literature: Washington Irving: Selected Writings Washington Irving, 2023-04-27 Two of Washington Irving's works of short fiction from his 1819-20 work, The Sketch Book—Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow—are among the most enduringly popular of American classics. In his own day, Irving's works were widely read in Britain as well as in America; the English novelist William Makepiece Thackeray described him as "the first ambassador whom the New World of Letters sent to the Old." This edition takes notice of transatlantic literary history with an appendix of reviews from American and British newspapers, and by printing in facing page format the American and British versions of "Traits of Indian Character" (which differed from each other in a variety of interesting ways). Also included are an

excerpt from Irving's first major work, *A History of New York*; excerpts from a key source that Irving drew on for "Rip Van Winkle"; and a selection of illustrations showing some of the ways in which this character was imagined in nineteenth-century America. With a concise but wide-ranging introduction and extensive explanatory notes, this edition is ideally suited for course use.

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broadview anthology of american literature: Fanny Fern: Selected Writings Fanny Fern, 2023-04-27 Fanny Fern dominated the New York literary scene in the 1850s, garnering both esteem and, occasionally, derision for her witty and acerbic newspaper columns and literary criticism; her semi-autobiographical novel *Ruth Hall*, which traces the rise of an intelligent and determined young woman from poverty to prestige through her pursuit of a writing career, was one of America's most significant early bestsellers. Fern's use of informal, vibrantly conversational prose and her abundant colloquialisms marked an important shift in the established literary conventions of nineteenth-century fiction and journalism. This compact edition collects some of Fern's most frequently taught journalism—much of which focuses on the changing roles of women in nineteenth-century America—along with excerpts from *Ruth Hall*.

broadview anthology of american literature: Slaves in Algiers Susanna Rowson, 2023-04-06 As Americans began defining who was to be counted a citizen in their newly-established republic, Susanna Rowson's comic opera *Slaves in Algiers* (1794) makes an earnest case that women be accorded the rights guaranteed to men, playfully turning sexual hierarchies on their head: "Women were born for universal sway; / Men to adore, be silent, and obey." A fast-paced plot, engaging characterization, and rollicking songs ensured that *Slaves in Algiers* garnered success when it was first performed at the New Theater in Philadelphia. But Rowson's play also engages in perpetuating racial stereotypes: set in Algiers at a time when Barbary pirates were seizing more and more U.S. ships in the Mediterranean Sea, *Slaves in Algiers* is written for a largely white audience driven by outrage at the enslavement of white people in the Barbary states. The play is critical of many aspects of North African cultures, particularly the practices of piracy and enslavement, while not acknowledging the moral and ethical taint of America's own enslavement of African Americans. In recent years, critics have given increased attention to *Slaves in Algiers*, particularly to its interwoven feminist, nationalist, and imperialist themes, as well as to its treatment of Muslim and Jewish characters. This volume is one of a number of editions that have been drawn from the pages of the acclaimed Broadview Anthology of American Literature; like the others, it is designed to make a range of material from the anthology available in a format convenient for use in a wide variety of contexts.

broadview anthology of american literature: Emily Dickinson: Selected Poems and Letters Emily Dickinson, 2023-02-21 This compact edition, designed for use in undergraduate courses, combines a substantial selection of Dickinson's poems (including one complete fascicle) with a selection of letters and a range of contextual materials. In a number of cases several different versions of a poem are presented side by side. The texts are based on the handwritten manuscripts themselves, in the facsimile form in which the Emily Dickinson Archive now makes the vast majority of Dickinson's manuscript versions available to the general public. The three major editions that are based directly on the manuscripts—those of Thomas H. Johnson (1955), R.W. Franklin (1998) and Cristanne Miller (2016)—have also been consulted; in many cases where the transcriptions of these

editors differ from one another, this edition provides information in the notes as to those differences. Extensive explanatory footnotes are also provided, as is a concise but wide-ranging introduction to Dickinson and her work. The appendices include excerpts from numerous nineteenth-century reviews of Dickinson's first published volume (including by William Dean Howells and Andrew Lang). Thomas Wentworth Higginson's influential Atlantic Monthly article, "Emily Dickinson's Letters," is also included in its entirety.

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broadview anthology of american literature: Letters from an American Farmer: Selections J. Hector St. John De Crèvecoeur, 2023-02-21 Letters from an American Farmer is increasingly recognized as one of the foundational texts in the study both of American literature and of American history. This compact edition combines a selection of the most important, accessible, and engaging sections of Crèvecoeur's work with a focused selection of background contextual material. The result is an edition ideally suited for use in a wide range of undergraduate courses.

broadview anthology of american literature: American Literature in Transition, 1820-1860: Volume 2 Justine S. Murison, 2022-06-23 The essays in American Literature in Transition, 1820-1860 offer a new approach to the antebellum era, one that frames the age not merely as the precursor to the Civil War but as indispensable for understanding present crises around such issues as race, imperialism, climate change, and the role of literature in American society. The essays make visible and usable the period's fecund imagined futures, futures that certainly included disunion but not only disunion. Tracing the historical contexts, literary forms and formats, global coordinates, and present reverberations of antebellum literature and culture, the essays in this volume build on existing scholarship while indicating exciting new avenues for research and teaching. Taken together, the essays in this volume make this era's literature relevant for a new generation of students and scholars.

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